

Inquiry into the Strategic Review of the Queensland Audit Office

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18 April 2024

Mr Tim Horne
Committee Secretary
Cost of Living and Economics Committee
Queensland Parliament

By email: COLEC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Horne

Inquiry into the Report of the Strategic Review of the Queensland Audit Office

OIC welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Cost of Living and Economics Committee's (**Committee**) inquiry into the strategic review of the Queensland Audit Office.

The Office of the Information Commissioner (**OIC**) is an independent statutory body that reports to the Queensland Parliament. The Information Commissioner is an officer of parliament charged with functions under the *Right to Information Act 2009* (Qld) (**RTI Act**) and the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (Qld) (**IP Act**) to, respectively, facilitate greater and easier access to government held information and oversee safeguarding of personal information held by public sector agencies.

OIC's submission

We have confined this submission to one issue in particular: recommendation 8.8 of the *Strategic Review of the Queensland Audit Office* (4 December 2023). OIC supports the recommendation that the Committee review the new budget processes in the *Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023*, section 29G of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, two years after their commencement.

OIC notes that as part of that review, the Committee could also examine the application of the new transparent budget management model in New South Wales and consider whether any aspects should be implemented in Queensland.

OIC recommends that the Committee, in reviewing the new budget processes under section 29G, also consider equivalent budget process provisions that apply to other integrity bodies.

As the Committee would be aware, the *Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* introduced the following provisions, consistent with section 29G:

- section 260 of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* for the Crime and Corruption Commission;
- section 85G of the *Integrity Act 2009* for the Office of the Integrity Commissioner;
- section 85C of the *Ombudsman Act 2001* for the Ombudsman; and
- section 168 of the *Right to Information Act 2009* for OIC.

OIC submits that a review of these provisions, alongside section 29G, would ensure a consistent approach in determining whether the new budget processes meet their objectives for all of these integrity bodies.

On 24 July 2023, OIC made a submission to the former Economics and Governance Committee in relation to the *Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023*. That submission noted the Bill did not fully address the specific recommendations made by Professor Coaldrake. A copy of the OIC's submission is available [here](#).

Should you require further information regarding the above matters, please contact me at [REDACTED] or on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

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Joanne Kummrow
Information Commissioner